

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein, and all members of the Judiciary Committee, and anyone else it may concern,

I respectfully write to you to demand that you vote to OPPOSE SB 16: An Act Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime.

I think we can all agree that parts of this bill are laudable. As a citizen of this state, I too want a reduction in crime and especially juvenile crime, as those juveniles are at risk of becoming adult criminals. I too want more police on the street and want programs to help curb “gun” violence and all other types of violence as well. We have a major problem with recidivism, and I too want that stopped but infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens and legal gun owners is NOT the way to do it. As a gun owner in this state, I cannot abide by the Governor’s caustic rhetoric on “too many damn guns”. I was not at all shocked to hear that from him, but when I read Senate Bill 16, I became further incensed. Us legal gun owners ARE NOT the ones causing the problems with violence/gun violence. These crimes are perpetrated by those with a clear disregard for the laws we already have on the books, and unless we treat these criminals as the problem, we will forever be stuck in the vicious circle of crime and violence because these criminals know the risks and penalties for their actions are light. Why doesn’t our government get as tough on criminals as it has been or is trying to be on gun owners/law abiding citizens?? That time for a change is RIGHT NOW.

I RESPECTFULLY DEMAND YOU VOTE TO OPPOSE SB 16. Not just because its obnoxious to my Rights as a gun owner, but because most of those measures would prove futile to reducing crime. Us legal gun owners ARE NOT THE PROBLEM. All the laws further restricting our rights to bear arms only serve to hurt me and others like me. Criminals could care less what laws are on the books and will not abide. If you really want to work on the issue of gun violence or violence in general, you need to get tougher on the criminals with stiffer penalties for their crimes that will actually be enforced. Again, it is well past time that you stop encroaching on the rights of law-abiding citizens and instead go after the criminals themselves.

I also OPPOSE H.B. No. 5416 – An Act Concerning Bulk Purchases of Pistols and Revolvers. As a free and law-abiding citizen, I should be able to purchase whatever firearms I desire in any quantity and at any time and for any lawful reason. Limiting the amount or type of firearms a person can purchase will not have any meaningful effect on the problem of criminals causing gun violence. Also limiting the number of firearms a person can purchase will cause the state to lose out in the ever-important and valuable tax revenue generated from these sales. It has happened on more than one occasion that i have gone to a firearms dealer with the intention of purchasing one specific gun and end up seeing a good deal on something else I like and I end up purchasing both (or more).

I SUPPORT Raised S.B. No. 388 – An Act Concerning the Defense of a Person or a Person’s Dwelling, Place of Work or Motor Vehicle. A free and law-abiding citizen should be able to take whatever measures necessary up to and including the use of lethal force (a firearm) to protect themselves, others, or protect and preserve their personal property or known property of others. Not only does this give us law abiding citizens a good and legal defense for protecting ourselves/others/our property, but laws like this will also have a meaningful effect on criminals because it will give them pause before they decide to commit any criminal acts knowing that the stakes are now much higher.

I SUPPORT Raised H.B. No. 5415 – An Act Concerning the Transfer of Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines. By the rights given to us in the US Constitution, legal, law-abiding citizens should be able to purchase, own, and transfer any weapon or firearm or firearm accessory that we so desire and can afford. While we have already been restricted by law in this respect, I feel HB 5415 is a relaxation of an over-reaching and unconstitutional law and should be passed.

I SUPPORT Raised H.B. No. 5412 – An Act Concerning the Duty to Retreat in a Religious House of Worship. A free, law-abiding citizen should be able to take any measure necessary (up to and including use of deadly force/firearms) to protect themselves, or others or the property of themselves or others with NO duty to retreat. This law should be effective not only in houses of worship, but EVERYWHERE. Laws like this will have a meaningful effect on crime because it will cause criminals/would be criminals to think twice before they act knowing the stakes could be much higher for their criminal actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Aniuk

Shelton, CT